

•223

2. Hand noose or draw noose (naŋm)

The ground noose, (aŋima-o-si) (o-si = below), Figure 72, is set especially on the walls of the dwarf buck, Neotragus ba'rsi Winton (odŋŋe). It is fastened to a cross beam (a) resting on two well-concealed forked props (b). Other victims of the ground noose are gallinaceous birds (guinea fowl, francolins) and the night rail (Himantornis).

With great skill a whole number of noose snares are set in trees whose fruit is a popular food of birds, especially the Afzelia africana Smith (ovŋŋ). Such snares are called aŋima-o-jŋb (o jŋb = above) and draw tight by themselves. Hornbills and the blue touraco, Corythaecola cristata Vieill. (kŋnŋk IV) are the main victims of this trap. Now and then a long-tailed monkey is also caught in it. /125/

The hand noose for parrots (naŋm I), which is made of rattan string, is quite different from the previous two snares. It consists of a loop around a branch to which one end is tied while the other end extends down to the ground where a man holds on to it and pulls as soon as an animal sticks its head through the loop. The parrot is pressed against the branch and /Fig. 72 appears here in the original text/ can be seized. This parrot noose is especially used in the dense foliage of the Myrianthus trees (mangŋme III Fang, engŋŋŋ Nrum, Jaunde), which are perfectly suited for hiding and whose fruit is favored by parrots. Catching parrots is mainly an occupation for boys, but adults also amuse themselves at it.

[15]

6. Draw traps

(a) Ground draw traps

324

The Fangwe distinguish no less than nine types of these, namely, the following.

1. Traps constructed over a pit

1. aŋima

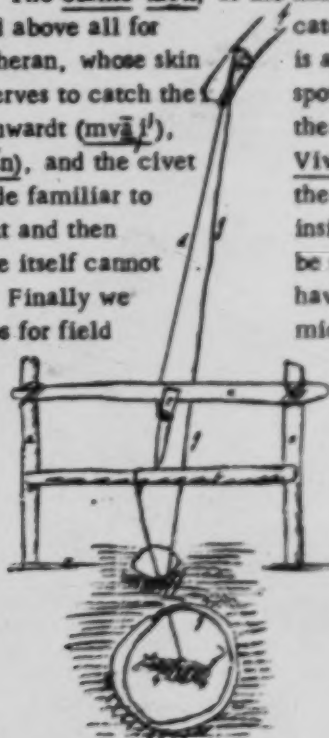
2. mŋb I Nrum, mŋk Fang, mŋbogo Fang

3. ngŋ (k) -oŋŋm

224

The olame-nā'n, as the name indicates (nā'n = genet), is used above all for Pucheran, whose skin it serves to catch the Reinwardt (mā'ā'), (ojān), and the civet made familiar to front and then cave itself cannot

Finally we traps for field



catching the genet, Genetta aubryana is a popular ornament. In addition, spotted palm civet Nandinia binotata the linsang Poliana poensis Waterhouse Viverra civetta (zōō'). The place is the animal by putting rats first in inside the hollow, if the animal's be used.

have to mention two smaller draw mice and birds, respectively. These are the efūga and ewuās, where the noose is placed around the trap spring (a) with the help of a stick (i), so that the animal is jammed against the trap spring (see Fig. 79. The efūga is designed for mice and other small rodents and, like the potamogale trap is set up in front of a fenced-in area with bait (cassava) inside. Furthermore, this trap is used to get rid of the troublesome Dryotriorchis batesi Sharpe

223

Fig. 78. Genet Trap, olam e nā'n.

(ngbāwūā III Ntūm) which steals chickens. "When the bird has caught a chicken and then drops it again as people rush toward it, the trap is quickly set up and the hen placed inside it; then the robber frequently comes back to get the hen and in the process gets caught in the trap." /129/

The bird trap ewuās (wuās = an imitation of the sound of the noose snapping shut), Figure 79, is constructed in exactly the same way, except that it lacks a fence and is designed for doves, guinea fowl, francolins, and night rails. /Fig. 79 appears here in the original text. /

• 223

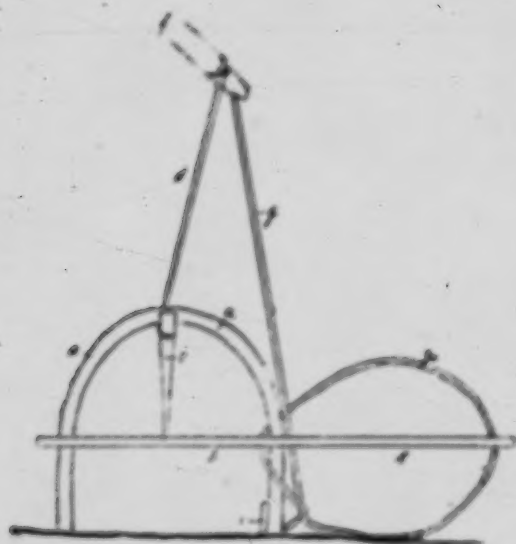
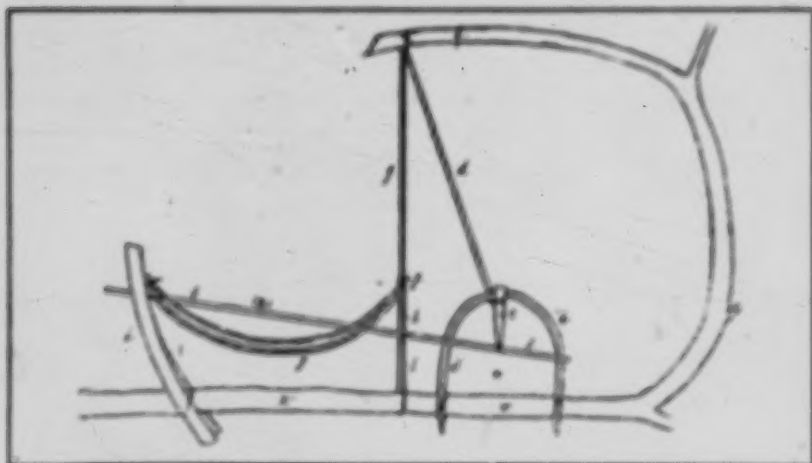


Fig. 79. Gressor Trap, ewuas.

(b) Tree draw trap

The most frequently used trap for smaller birds is the tree draw trap, nkpwās (nkpwās = an imitation of the sound of a trap slamming shut or of the hand seizing the prey), Figure 80. It is set up in trees, and hence the trap spring (a) is tied to a twig (x). A novelty here is the fact that what is usually the free end of the vice, the extension (as we have called it), is clamped inside the fork of a holding pin (i) (ntēbe-ōhū III, from a tebe = to stand, ōhū = before; thus, projection). Another innovation is the arrangement of the noose which is made from two ropes of the stalks of the Sarcophrynium velutinum K. Sch. (okialkui; stalk = ndēnan). The two ropes are tied together at one end and fastened to a twig which takes the place of the draw stick (f); then a string (h) is slung around the branch (x) and tied loosely to the noose (g) (in y) so that it can be moved along it. The ends of the sling are now laid around the extension of the vice; the bait is tied on it at z, and the trap is ready. The bird that sits down on the vice at z

223


Fig. 80. Bird Draw Trap, nkpwaa.

pushes it out from under the clamp; then the noose tightens, and the bird is held fast with its feet at y. Thus, it is usually caught alive.

[157]

This bird trap is set up mainly by boys, since it brings in only smaller birds. As bait for honey suckers (Nectariniidae), they use, in addition to the blossoms of the Canna bidentata Bertol. (ekonežok), those of the Aframomum hanburyi K. Sch. (oba[s]) - adžom; blossoms = atsi[k]) and also of other Scitamineae. For weaver birds, Ploceus cucullatus (St. Müll.) (ngāā), Spermospiza guttata Vieill. (kā-o-si), Spermestes poensis Fras., and Estrilda varieties (edžōle), they use grasses like Panicum sulcatum Aubl. (ekōk) and /130/ Fig. 80 appears here in the original text/ Panicum ovalifolium Poir. (obūtebedžōle); for species of Andropadus (otōk) and other Haarvögel /Ger., ?/, like Phyllastrephus leucopleurus Cass. (ngōmedžā') and the bulbul Pycnonotus gabonensis Sharpe (nkō'gēlū'h), they use pepper Capsicum (okāilān) and Heckeria subpeltata (Wild.) Kunth. (abōmedžā'n). Among other birds caught in the tree draw traps we should mention: barbets (Capitonidae), for example, Gymnobucco bonapartei Verr. Hartl. (ovō Ntum), Buccanodon ducailui Cass. (ejīle), Barbatula species (omvōg), and Trachylaemus purpuratus Verr. (ekū'kū'). Furthermore, in addition to the above-mentioned

263 Hasrvögel /Ger., 7/. there are the Ixonotus guttatus Verr. (edäsa, Fang, edändä Ntum); the doves, Chalcopelia atra L. (edä) and Turtur semitorquatus Rapp. (äp); glossy starlings, species of Lamprocolius (äp); and hornbills, Lophoceros fasciatus Shaw. (oköbwe) and camurus Cass. (oköbwe I. Ntum). The bait for all these birds is the fruit of the Euphorbiaceae Alchornea cordifolia Muell. Arg. (abui Ntum, abui Fang), the Guttiferae Haronga paniculata (Pers.) Lodd. (äp), the Euphorbiaceae Antidesma laciniatum Muell. Arg. (oköbwe) and Haemaria didymostemon Baill. (eföb), the Ficus prensilis Warb. and laurentii Warb., and other types of Ficus (eföb-o-äp Fang, äp, Ntum). One can see traps set up everywhere in the Alchornea bushes or in clearings where the above-mentioned trees grow. If a boy takes a lot of trouble and watches over his trap, he can catch up to ten birds a day in one trap. He takes the prey home to his mother who keeps the larger birds, such as the doves, and lets the children have the smaller ones. /131/ /Fig. 81 appears here in the original text. /

(c) Lemur trap

224 A very ingenious and well-contrived trap is the lemur trap, mböb I, ebä I (from bö = to lie, mbuh = cross beam, that is, a beam that lies on top of another), so named because the trap is set up against a trunk laid over a clearing (Fig. 81). It (Fig. 82) is a genuine draw trap, with the draw stick (f), the clamp (c) and the clamp rope (d), and two nooses (g) attached to the draw stick. The device attached to the horizontal trunk (x), however, requires explanation. It consists of a piece of raffia leafstalk, one end of which is planted in the ground and the other end split and pushed under the branch in such a manner that the latter rests in the crack. As Drawing 2 shows, both halves are later tied together (y). Above the stem each of the two forked ends is cut in such a way as to form five prongs (Fig. 82, 1-5) of which the middle one (3) is left considerably longer than the others. Both center prongs (see Drawing 2) are connected with each other by a stick and thus form the gallows

224 bushes along the trail where the animals go through them. A breach is made in the strip of brush and over it is placed the branch needed for the construction of the trap. Usually from three to seven traps are set up next to each other.

In addition, large traps of the same kind are used for long-tailed monkeys, and these are likewise set up in the forest only over paths or clearings.

7. Francolin trap

223 The francolin trap, nôlô (Fig. 83), like the traps of the previous class, includes a draw stick, but the clamping device is a completely different type. The part of the trap on the ground is nothing more than a round, not very deep hole; in the wall of the hole and over against each other are stuck two horizontal raffia sticks (a) under which is pushed the clamp (c) with the noose rope (2)

2. In this case the same rope that is tied around the clamp is again used.

directly attached to it, like the trap nôlô. The noose is laid around the hole. A few kernels of maize /133/ or groundnuts are scattered as bait around and in the hole. The francolin sticks its head into the hole and in so doing touches the clamp which flies up and at the same time draws the noose over the bird's head. Aside from the field francolin, Francolinus squamatus Cam. (ogbwK⁵), doves also are caught in this trap which is as simple as it is effective. /Fig. 83 appears here in the original text. /

In passing I may mention that chickens, if they cannot be seized, are also caught by means of such a trap, erected ad hoc, or by a leaf bag in which a kernel of maize is placed. To get at the maize, the chicken puts its head inside the bag and is caught before it can free itself (1).

223
224 1. Aside from those mentioned in connection with the spring trap, the technical expressions for the parts of the



Fig. 83. Francolin Trap, ndon.

draw traps are as follows:

(a) Trap spring = trap gallows (see under spring traps);

(b) Vice (see under spring traps);

(c) Clamp (see under spring traps);

(d) Clamp rope (see under spring traps);

(e) Clamp-stick poles or clamp-stick

rope = ndā'ne jā IV, ndā'ne jā IV;

(f) Draw stick = miāge Fang, māē jā III Ntum;

(g) Noose = ekōē Ntum, ekbwē Fang, nkjā I;

(h) Noose holder = mbēle-ekbwē Fang;

(i) Noose prop = sūā-ekōē Ntum;

(k) Peg = engōn;

(l) Fenced-in area (with efuga, and so forth) = ndāi b I, from a dāi b = to close.

For the lemur trap:

(m) Trap stick = atāk;

(n) Cross sticks = olī Ntum, evē Fang.